



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Great Lakes Pilotage Rates Final Rule Published

The Coast Guard today announced publication of a final rule in the Federal Register amending the Great Lakes pilotage rates for the 2010 shipping season. By law, the Coast Guard must review and make appropriate rate adjustments by March 1 of each year—a deadline achieved this year due to the Coast Guard's agency wide commitment to improving its rulemaking by hiring additional personnel, streamlining rulemaking processes and enhancing oversight to ensure safety in the Great Lakes and waters across the globe.

The final rule makes no rate adjustments until Aug. 1, 2010, when rates will increase an average of 5.07 percent to reflect a simultaneous Aug. 1 increase in benchmark merchant mariner contractual wages and benefits. The increases are meant to generate sufficient revenue to cover allowable expenses, target pilot compensation, and return on investment. Actual increases will vary by area within the Great Lakes.

The rule and related materials may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number: USCG-2009-0883.

For more information regarding this rulemaking, please contact Mr. Paul M. Wasserman, chief, Great Lakes Pilotage Branch, Commandant (CG-54122), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, at (202) 372-1535.

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